19th December 1953]

Petition from Communist prisoners in Madurai Central Jail.

* 139-E *Q.*—SRI P. RAMAMURTHI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government had received recently any petition from Communist prisoners in Madurai Central Jail about treatment to political prisoners; and

(*b*) if the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what action are the Government taking on the petition?

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR:—" (*a*) & (*b*) Yes, Sir; the requests made in the petition are being examined."

Firing incident at Mattanchery.

* 140 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state whether any officer or police of this State had any connection or part in the firing incident at Mattanchery on 15th September 1953 and in the subsequent events?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" No, Sir. No police officer of this State took part in the firing incident at Mattanchery on the 15th September 1953 or in the subsequent events."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP:—" Is it a fact that the police of Fort Cochin were standing by and giving encouragement to the Mattanchery Police when the firing took place? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" If the places were very near, I suppose, they must be standing by."

Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur.

* 141 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether he has received a memorandum, dated 17th August 1953, from Sri K. P. Gopalan, M.L.A., requesting the Government to raise the Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur into a Government Hospital and to increase the beds in the hospital and allot more money to the hospital for medicines; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" Yes. The matter is under consideration."

SRI **K. P. GOPALAN**:—" സാർ, പയ്യന്നൂർ ആസ്പത്രിക്കു ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കു ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് മരുന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതു് 3,000 ക.ക്കാണു്. ഈ 3,000 ക. യിൽ ഒരായിരം ഉറുപ്പികയോളം റെയിൽവെ ഫ്രെയിററായി പോകുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ മരുന്നിന്നുവേണ്ടി ഒരു സംഖ്യ അടിയന്തിരമായി ഗവമ്മേണ്ടു് നീക്കിവെക്കുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" It is the responsibility of the district board as it is a local fund hospital."

[19th December 1953

SRI P. SELVARAJ :—" May I know whether it is not the policy of the Government to convert all local fund hospitals into Government hospitals and if so, how long it will take for the Government to convert the Local Fund Hospital at Payyanur into a Government hospital? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Government are at present taking over every year five or six of the taluk head-quarters hospitals run by district boards. In the district of Malabar all the taluk headquarters hospitals have been already provincialized."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" കഴിഞ്ഞ നാലു മാസമായി മലബാറിൽ പ്രത്യേകിച്ചു വടക്കെ മലബാറിൽ പടർന്നു പിടിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള dysentery മുതലായ അനേക രോഗങ്ങൾ ഹേതുവായി ആസ്പത്രികളിലെ മരുന്നു തീർന്നുപോയിരിക്കുന്നു. ഇന്നു പയ്യന്നൂർ ആസ്പത്രിയിൽ മരുന്നില്ലാതെ ഡോക്ടർ വിഷമിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ സംഗതി മലബാർ ഡിസ്ട്രിക്ട് ബോഡ് സ്പെഷൽ അഫീസരെയും, ഡി.എം.ഒ. വിനേയും അറിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ട് മരുന്നു അടിയന്തരമായി ആവശ്യമാണ്. ഇതിന്നുവേണ്ട നടപടികൾ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മന്ത്രി എടുക്കുമോ ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The matter may be represented to the Special Officer of the District Board."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Since hospitals without medicines will really be a mockery, will the Government instruct the Special Officer who is functioning under them to rush medical supplies and medicines to provide relief to the people so that there may not be merely brick and mortar? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" A general statement that the dispensaries in Malabar are a mockery has been made. It is not correct and exaggerations do not serve any purpose."

SRI A. APPU :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that admission of patients in the local fund hospitals are refused for want of funds to meet the dietary charges? If so, will the Government issue instructions to the doctors to collect subscriptions from the public to meet the dietary charges? In fact, I know in certain hospitals doctors are going on begging for paddy to give food to the patients."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Almost all hospitals are overcrowded and diet is provided for all the patients admitted."

Construction of the road between Cannanore and Irikkoor.

* 142 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state when the road from Cannanore to Irikkoor via Kayaralam-Mayyil will be completed for public transport and at what stage the construction stands at present?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The work of forming the road except for the stretch between M 13/4 and 14/4 has been completed. The work on this portion is held up due